

Fact Sheet



Wood Preserving Industry

May 2001

Helping Wood Preserving Facilities Meet Environmental Regulations

Major Environmental Regulations for Wood Preserving

- ▶ Make hazardous waste determinations
- ▶ Obtain an EPA Identification Number
- ▶ Follow drip pad requirements
- ▶ Follow accumulation and storage requirements
- ▶ Manifest hazardous waste
- ▶ Satisfy record-keeping and reporting requirements
- ▶ Provide personnel training
- ▶ Develop contingency plans

Introduction

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has discovered significant violations of environmental regulations, as well as releases of chemical preservatives, at wood preserving facilities. EPA will offer assistance to wood preserving facilities to ensure compliance with environmental regulations and to investigate and cleanup releases of chemical preservatives.

What Happened?

Wood preserving facilities in the Region 7 area (Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska) were inspected during 2000 and 2001 for compliance with hazardous waste regulations. As part of the inspections, drinking water, surface water, and sediment samples were collected to provide information on releases of hazardous wastes and whether these releases had caused a threat to human health and/or the environment.

Most of the wood preserving facilities inspected have violations, such as: failure to make a hazardous waste determination, illegal treatment, disposal, and/or storage of hazardous wastes, failure to comply with drip pad regulations, or failure to notify of hazardous waste activity.

There are releases from some facilities that pose threats to human health and/or the environment.

What Will EPA Do to Help?

EPA will begin a Compliance Incentive Program (CIP). The goal of the CIP is to help wood preserving facilities comply with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations. Under the CIP, EPA will invite wood preserving

facilities to investigate and disclose violations at their facilities. Upon disclosure of any violations to EPA, EPA will offer the facilities the opportunity to enter into an Expedited Settlement Agreement. This agreement would include significantly reduced penalties (with consideration given to company's financial situation) and a schedule for complying with all applicable regulatory requirements.

EPA and the appropriate state agency will work with those facilities to ensure that any releases are promptly cleaned-up.

EPA will also coordinate compliance and cleanup activities with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources regarding any cleanup and violations at wood preserving facilities.

What Are the Commonly Used Chemicals in Wood Preserving?

The commonly used chemicals in wood preserving are creosote, chromated copper arsenate, and pentachlorophenol, also known as PCP. PCP preservatives are known to contain dioxin and furans, which have the potential to threaten human health.

For More Information

If you have questions, please call:

Shawntell Crossgrow, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator,
at (913) 551-7003 or toll-free at 1-800-223-0425.